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4 AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT

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8 290 Broadway

9 New York, New York

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11 Thursday

12 June 11, 2009

13 12:00 p.m.

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2 ANASTACIA KURYLO: I'm actually

3 very impressed, to tell you the truth. I'm

4 glad the entrance is going to be on Broadway.

5 My concern would be what the entrance looks

6 like and that it doesn't just blend into the

7 background of the other buildings.

8 Another concern I would have is the

9 publicity that it would get. I think more

10 people know about the police museum, or nobody

11 knows about the police museum, but I think

12 still more people know about that than they do

13 about this. So, just more publicity for the

14 newspapers and visitor centers and everything

15 else. Even at Times Square they have the

16 visitors center where they put the pamphlets

17 for all the different tourist sites, there

18 should be something there for it. That's it.

19 Thank you.

20 ANGELINE KELLER: I would like to

21 see more family workshops. Instead of maybe

22 like once a month, like twice a month so that

23 we give families more time to bond and learn

24 educational activities together.

25 As for getting the message out

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2 about the African Burial Ground, we need fliers

3 to be passed out on the train, bus, co-workers

4 to be giving fliers, they can be posted, so at

5 least more people would know about the Burial

6 Memorial. A lot of people don't know about it.

7 If everyone takes a moment to hand out fliers

8 while you're on the train I think a lot of

9 people will find out more about it.

10 Thank you.

11 ELLEN FULLER: How did the National

12 Park Service preserve and protect the African

13 Burial Ground? You can continue assistance

14 with the Parks Department.

15 Number 2, what do you think about

16 current programs? Your programs are good, but

17 we don't reach enough people. We should

18 concentrate on churches and schools.

19 Number 3, what suggestions do you

20 have for future programs and visitors

21 experience? We can concentrate on stability,

22 senior centers, block associations, et cetera.

23 Recognizing new visitor center. We

24 should work more effectively with what we have.

25 We recognize that not all who are

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2 interested in this burial ground will be able

3 to visit the National Monument. How can we

4 make the African Burial Ground accessible? We

5 can use the internet so people in Nigeria or

6 Paris can have access.

7 Which local, national, global

8 community organizations and civics do you think

9 the African Burial Ground should partner with?

10 I think they should partner with the Board of

11 Education, the senior centers and the block

12 associations.

13 What types of partnerships,

14 education, tourism should the NPS pursue? I

15 think they should pursue the Board of

16 Education, colleges and community boards.

17 How should NPS work best with

18 others to insure protection of the entire

19 African Burial Ground? I think we should work

20 with the Sanitation Department and the Parks

21 Department continuously. I guess they're doing
22 that.

23 Do you have suggestions on how we
24 can raise public awareness that the burial
25 ground extend beyond the National Monument? I
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2 think we should inform the schools, the
3 churches and the internet.

4 How do you believe you can best
5 participate in the development of the African
6 Burial Ground and general management plan?
7 Continue voluntary work, that's what I could
8 do.

9 Are there other ideas or comments
10 we can embark on planning this effort? We can
11 be more community conscious, include the
12 community. That's it.

13 Thank you.

14 LOUISE BONAPARTE: The best way to
15 preserve and protect is to spread the word
16 internationally about the African Burial Ground
17 is to create further awareness and partnerships
18 with various organizations.

19 What do you think about our current

20 program? It is superb, bar-none presentation.

21 It enlightens every individual no matter the

22 race, culture or age.

23 What suggestions do you have for

24 further programs and visitor experience? To

25 have an interactive computerized tour to

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2 encourage the visitors, to participate in

3 facts, ask questions and answers. Consider

4 creating a cartoon or children's figure that

5 would place an impact on young children that

6 would have a lasting effect into adulthood.

7 Recognizing that that new visitor

8 center will soon open and be in operation for

9 some period, do you believe that the NPS should

10 consider developing a different facility in the

11 future? As we move along in time everything

12 around is changing. To keep with the modern

13 times NPS should continue to upgrade with new

14 businesses and welcome new ideas.

15 How could we make the African

16 Burial Ground accessible and meaningful to a

17 student in Nigeria or a grandmother in Paris?

18 Developing various things and brochures, to

19 guide persons through the experience also by

20 having an interactive web site.

21 Which local, national and global

22 communities, organizations, businesses and

23 civic groups do you think the African Burial

24 Ground should partner with? It would be

25 imperative to have a strong partnership

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2 especially with the African American community.

3 Mass globalization such as the NACP, Urban

4 league, 100 Black Men and Women, large

5 businesses such as clothing labels, fast food

6 products and other products African Americans

7 use.

8 What types of partnerships,

9 educational, philanthropic, tourism, et cetera,

10 should the NPS pursue? A key partnership

11 should be directly with Africa itself, bringing

12 in guest educators and philanthropists. A tour

13 should be offered to Africa and for Native

14 Africans, a tour should be offered through the

15 NPS.

16 How should the NPS best work with

17 others to ensure to protection of the entire

18 African Burial Ground? The NPS can best work
19 with others such as surrounding corporations
20 and federal building with the support of the
21 local and national government as well as
22 participants with various partnerships with the
23 various organizations.

24 Do you have suggestions of how we
25 can raise public awareness that the burial
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2 ground extends beyond the National Monument?
3 The key is advertisement by television, radio
4 and internet, as well as billboards throughout
5 the city. You can get celebrity spokespersons
6 to speak on behalf of the National Monument
7 and targeting children. They are smart about
8 this site. They will tell other children and
9 adults what they have learned.

10 How do you believe that you can
11 best participate in the development and
12 implementation of the African Burial Ground
13 General Management Plan? I can best
14 participate by having a direct link to Africa
15 being that I travel to Africa most of the year.
16 I can exchange information to Africa and bring

17 back information back to the site.

18 Are there other ideas or comments

19 you would like the planning team to consider as

20 we all embark on this planning effort? The

21 idea is to upgrade and to keep up with modern

22 technology, new exhibits are strongly

23 encouraged. You want to make the visit

24 extraordinary that the visitor would want to

25 visit again and to tell others about the site.

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2 Thank you.

3 CLAUDE BURLEY: My name is Claude

4 Burley. I'm up from Florida, which I now

5 reside, but in 2003 I was part of the

6 Redetermined Ceremony here at 290 Broadway.

7 During that event it was a life changing and a

8 very profound time in my life as to be a part

9 of the ritual for the Redetermined Ceremony.

10 During that time I had been in

11 communications with Mr. Howard Dodds of the

12 Schaumburg Library on 135th Street, Lenox

13 Avenue. I had attended a number of different

14 seminars and presentations that related to the

15 development of a program for the Redetermined

16 Ceremony. So, as we got close around about
17 August or September of '03 we finalized and
18 organized a tribute to the ancestors. Myself,
19 my wife and Dr. Dolores Blakely, Queen Mother
20 Moore, came up with a NEUMA Ceremony which was
21 called the NEUMA, which stands for the rebirth
22 and was a naming ceremony that from the grass
23 root community level we initiated and
24 participated in the Redetermined Ceremony
25 during the 20 hour vigil which took place after
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2 the main ceremony during the day of October 3,
3 '03.

4 For the most part the vigil was
5 designed for community organizations and
6 individuals to participate and be able to have
7 some input and the Redetermined Ceremony, which
8 it was a grand opportunity for us to present
9 our idea of having a naming ceremony for the
10 remains that were unearthed in 1991.

11 So, me and my wife embarked on an
12 assignment that was designated to us to come up
13 with 419 names for the remains of our
14 ancestors. And we were given the book of

15 names, of baby names that would allow us to
16 select names that would be suitable for our
17 ancestors being that they had been buried and
18 no one had any knowledge of their past names or
19 history other than that they were African
20 people. So, we selected 419 names. We drew up
21 documents, individual documents, certificates
22 for each one. On October 3rd, 4th, here at
23 this location at 290 Broadway at the burial
24 ground site, myself, Queen Mother and my wife
25 participated in a naming ceremony.

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2 We named a number of people lined
3 up all the way up the block to receive names of
4 the ancestors. It was a very moving, emotional
5 event just to see how people wanted to adopt
6 names of their predecessors and ancestors. So,
7 I've been given the honor and the privilege of
8 being designated three days later before the
9 tombs were closed here at this site.

10 We also performed another ceremony
11 which designated myself as the keeper of the
12 ancestral names which today I still have that
13 title and designation and I do still have the

14 original documents and names of our ancestors.
15 We continue to name members of the community
16 and continue to keep the legacy of our
17 ancestors alive through the naming ceremony and
18 we plan to continue.

19 As far as the visitor center here
20 at this site, at 290 Broadway, I personally
21 will like to see the naming ceremony be a part
22 of the visitor center as an exhibit to inform
23 the greater community as to the significance of
24 the ceremony and the active part, the obscured
25 part that our community played and also

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2 participating in the Redetermined Ceremony. I
3 think it's a very important and a profound part
4 of the ceremony. I hope at some point that
5 I'll be contacted and I'll be able to work and
6 collaborate with the Department of Interior to
7 be able to setup an exhibit, to have a display
8 of the names on exhibit so people will know
9 that they're not just skeletal remains, that we
10 did include an identity by giving each one of
11 the ancestral remains names. So, to us it's
12 more than just bones. To us it's family, to us

13 it's a profound part of our history and our
14 culture. And I definitely hope that somebody
15 will contact me about the naming ceremony.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Whereupon, at 2:00 p.m., the above
18 matter concluded.)

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2 C E R T I F I C A T E

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5 I, SHERRY SPALLIERO, a Notary Public

6 for and within the State of New York, do

7 hereby certify that the above is a correct

8 transcription of my stenographic notes.

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SHERRY SPALLIERO

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